

Message Text

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67

ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCCT-01 SY-05 IO-11 EB-07 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5938

INFO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCLANT IMMEDIATE

COMICEDEFOR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0052

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS PFOR MARR IC UK NATO

SUBJECT: ICELAND-UK FISHERIES DISPUTE: PROTESTERS AGAINST NATO

THREATEN BLOCKADE IDF MAIN GATE

REF: REYKJAVIK 0050 REYKJAVIK 0051

1. REFTELS REFER TO BLOCKADE TODAY OF GRINDAVIK TRANSMITTER SITE ACCESS ROAD. INFORMATION NOW RECEIVED THAT BEGINNING 0800 MONDAY THERE WILL BE BLOCKADE OF MAIN GATE AT IDF OF ALL VL VEHICLES (I.E. ALL OFFICIAL CARS) BUT NOT PRIVATE VEHICLES EVEN THOUGH DRIVEN BY MILITARY PERSONNEL. ACTION IS SUPPOSED TO SIGNIFY PROTEST AGAINST NATO AND NOT (RPT NOT) AGAINST AMERICANS.

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2. I HAVE DISCUSSED MATTER WITH MFA DEP SEC GEN TONIGHT. MFA

REQUESTS WE NOT MAKE AN ISSUE OF BLOCKADE OF VL VEHICLES UNTIL MFA HAS TIME "TO SORT THINGS OUT." HE SAID PROTESTS AGAINST GOVT RAPIDLY INCREASING DEMANDING SOME VISIBLE ACTION AGAINST NATO. HE SUGGESTS WE WAIT OUT THIS PARTICULAR ONE FOR AWHILE. I AGREED PROVIDED BLOCKADE IS OF SHORT DURATION AND DOES NOT SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT IDF MILITARY ACTIVITIES. I SO ADVISED IDF.

3. THIS AFTERNOON COMMUNISTS STARTED CIRCULATING PETITION DEMANDING BREAK OF RELATIONS WITH UK, WITHDRAWAL OF NATO MEMBERSHIP, AND WITHDRAWAL OF IDF.

4. SOME OF THE SIGNATORIES TO PETITION OF COUPLE YEARS AGO WHICH CALLED FOR IDF RETENTION ARE PLANNING ANOTHER PETITION TO COUNTER COMMUNISTS WHICH CALLS FOR BREAK OF RELATIONS WITH UK AND WHICH THREATENS WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO IF USG DOES NOT PLAY ACTIVE ROLE IN SETTLING FISHERIES DISPUTE.

5. EMOTIONS WITHIN ICELAND ARE RUNNING MUCH HIGHER TODAY AGAINST NATO THAN IN THE LAST "COD WAR".
IRVING

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